

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 were cancelled by previous amendment.

Please amend the claims of the application as indicated hereinafter, by inserting the underlined matter and deleting the matter lined through. Also, please cancel the claims that are indicated with "Cancelled" by the claim numbers.

1 1-22 (Cancelled)

1 23. (Currently amended) A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or
2 ~~the like~~ comprising:

3 providing an elongated tank and an auger in the tank;

4 filling said tank with water;

5 depositing birds in a bird inlet end of said tank;

6 moving the birds with said auger from said bird inlet end to a bird outlet end of
7 said tank;

8 passing water over a water impervious lower portion of a transverse wall in said
9 tank and into a sump in said bird inlet end of said tank;

10 retarding movement of said birds into said sump with a water pervious central
11 portion of said transverse wall ;

12 removing the birds from said bird outlet end of said tank;

13 recirculating the water from said sump through a heat exchanger to said bird ~~inlet~~
14 outlet end of said tank;

15 terminating the depositing of birds in said tank and the recirculating of water; and

16 recirculating the water from said sump through said heat exchanger and back to
17 said sump to clean said heat exchanger.

1 24. (Cancelled)

1 25. (Currently amended) A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or
2 the like comprising:

3 providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end;

4 filling said tank with water;

5 depositing birds in the water at said bird inlet end of said tank;

6 moving the birds along said tank to said bird outlet end of said tank;

7 moving water from said bird outlet end toward said bird inlet end of said tank;

8 passing the water into a sump in said bird inlet end of said tank;

9 recirculating the water from said sump through a heat exchanger back to said bird

10 outlet end of said tank, and

11 cleaning said heat exchanger by moving water from said sump through said heat

12 exchanger back to said sump.

1 26-30. (Cancelled)

1 31. (Currently amended) A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or
2 the like comprising:

3 providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end and a
4 motive device in the tank for moving the birds from the bird inlet end to the bird outlet
5 end;

6 filling the tank with water;

7 progressively depositing birds in the bird inlet end of the tank;

8 moving the birds with the motive device from the bird inlet end of the tank
9 through the water in the tank to the bird outlet end of the tank;

10 moving water from the bird outlet end of the tank through the tank in counter
11 flow relationship with respect to the birds' movement through the tank and into a sump in
12 the tank at the bird inlet end of the tank;

13 retarding the movement of the birds into the sump;

14 progressively removing the birds from the bird outlet end of the tank; ~~and~~

15 recirculating the water from the sump through a heat exchanger to the bird outlet
16 end of the tank, and

17 filling the sump with a cleaning liquid and recirculating the cleaning liquid
18 through the sump and the heat exchanger to clean the heat exchanger.

1 32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Currently amended) A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds

2 comprising:

3 providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end and a
4 motive device in the tank for moving the birds from the bird inlet end to the bird outlet
5 end;

6 filling the tank with water;

7 progressively depositing birds in the bird inlet end of the tank;

8 moving the birds with the motive device from the bird inlet end of the tank
9 through the water in the tank to the bird outlet end of the tank;

10 moving water from the bird outlet end of the tank through the tank in counter
11 flow relationship with respect to the birds' movement through the tank and into a sump in
12 the tank at the bird inlet end of the tank;

13 retarding the movement of the birds into the sump;

14 progressively removing the birds from the bird outlet end of the tank;

15 recirculating the water from the sump through a heat exchanger to the bird outlet
16 end of the tank,

17 ~~The process of claim 31, and further including the steps of:~~

18 terminating the depositing of birds in the tank;

19 clearing the tank of birds;

20 terminating the recirculating of water to the bird inlet end of the tank,

21 draining the tank, and

22 recirculating a cleaning liquid from the sump through the heat exchanger and back
23 to the sump to clean the heat exchanger.

1 34. (Currently amended) A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds
2 comprising:

3 _____ providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end and a
4 motive device in the tank for moving the birds from the bird inlet end to the bird outlet
5 end;

6 _____ filling the tank with water;

7 _____ progressively depositing birds in the bird inlet end of the tank;

8 _____ moving the birds with the motive device from the bird inlet end of the tank
9 through the water in the tank to the bird outlet end of the tank;

10 _____ moving water from the bird outlet end of the tank through the tank in counter
11 flow relationship with respect to the birds' movement through the tank and into a sump in
12 the tank at the bird inlet end of the tank;

13 _____ retarding the movement of the birds into the sump;

14 _____ progressively removing the birds from the bird outlet end of the tank;

15 _____ recirculating the water from the sump through a heat exchanger to the bird outlet
16 end of the tank,

17 ~~The process of claim 31~~ wherein the step of moving water into the sump
18 comprises passing water over a water impervious lower portion of a transverse wall in the
19 tank, and the step of retarding movement of the birds into the sump comprises retarding

- 20 the movement of the birds into the sump with a water previous central portion of the
- 21 transverse wall.